

Message Text

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11

ACTION COA-02

INFO OCT-01 ARA-11 ADP-00 L-03 EB-11 SCA-01 H-02 INR-10

PRS-01 CG-00 DODE-00 RSR-01 SCS-03 /046 W

----- 099316

R 172045 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7728

INFO AMCONSUL BELEM

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIS, BR

SUBJ: SHRIMP AGREEMENT

REF: BRASILIA 2908

1. BECAUSE OF INTEREST IN APOLLO XII INCIDENT, EMBASSY IS PROVIDING FOLLOWING BACKGROUND REPORT PREPARED BY CONSUL IN BELEM.

2. FOURTH NAVAL DISTRICT BELEM INFORMED AMCONSUL BELEM LATE AFTERNOON MAY 10 THAT US SHRIMPBOAT " APOLLO XII" HAD SOUNDED DISTRESS SINGAL " MAYDAY" AFTER DEVELOPING RUDDER TROUBLE REPORTEDLY APPROXIMATELY 75 MILES OFF THE COAST OF BRAZIL. BRAZILIAN SHRIMPBOAT " PINA VI" RESPONDED TO SIGNAL AND TOWED " APOLLO XII" TO SAFE HAVEN AT ESPADARTE AT JUNCTION OF PARA RIVER AND ATLANTIC OCEAN. NAVY WANTED TO KNOW IF CONSUL COULD AUTHORIZE TOWING BY NAVY CORVETTE INTO BELEM HARBOR FOR REPAIRS AND ALSO WANTED TO KNOW IF VESSEL APPEARED ON CONSULATE' S LIST OF SHRIMPBOATS REGISTERED UNDER US- BRAZIL AGREEMENT AS " APOLLO XII" DIS NOT APPEAR ON THEIR LIST.

3. CONSUL REPLIED THAT ONLY CAPTAIN OR OWNER COULD AUTHORIZE TOWING AND THAT EFFORT WOULD BE MADE TO CONTACT OWNER AT ONCE. REQUEST FOR AUTHORIZATION TELEPHONED TO DEPT BRAZIL DESK. ON QUESTION OF REGISTRATION CONSUL NOTED

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THAT THERE HAS BEEN A PROBLEM OF TIME LAG IN COMMUNICATING THE REGISTRATION NUMBERS OF VESSELS VOLUNTARILY COMPLYING WITH AGREEMENT.

4. LATE AFTERNOON MAY 11 FOURTH NAVAL DISTRICT INFORMED CONSUL THAT CORVETTE " SOLIMOES" HAD TOWED " APOLLO XII" TO BELEM ON AUTHORIZATION OF CAPTAIN.

5. CONSUL VISITED " APOLLO XII" ON MORNING MAY 12. VESSEL DID NOT HAVE UB REGISTRATION NUMBER PAINTED ON IT. ECUADORIAN CAPTAIN DID NOT KNOW REGISTRATION NUMBER. HE WAS NOT CARRYING SHIP' S PAPERS ON BOARD AND DID NOT SEEM TO UNDERSTAND WHEN QUERIED ABOUT LOG BOOK. CAPTAIN STATED THAT SHIP' S OWNER HAD ONLY TOLD HIM ORALLY THAT HE HAD PERMISSION TO FISH IN WATERS OF US- BRAZIL AGREEMENT. IT WAS LATER LEARNED THAT CAPTAIN HAD NOT RADIOED IN WHEN ENTERING WATERS, DEFINED BY AGREEMENT.

6. OWNER' S REPRESENTATIVE, J. W. MILLS OF OLYMPIC FISHERIES, PARAMARIBO, SURINAM, CALLED CONSUL AT NOON ON MAY 12 STATING HE HAD COME TO BELEM TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS FOR TOWING " APOLLO XII" TO PARAMARIBO. HE INFORMED CONSUL THAT REGISTRATION NUMBER WAS UB-204. HE SAID HE TOLD CAPTAIN TO GO AHEAD AND FISH, UPON RECEIPT OF REGISTRATION NUMBER. SHIP' S PAPERS WERE KEPT IN OFFICE IN PARAMARIBO. CONSUL INFORMED NAVY THAT MILLS WAS IN BELEM. NAVY REQUESTED MILLS AND CONSUL DISCUSS ARRANGEMENTS. NAVY STATED IT SAW NO OBSTACLE TO RELEASING VESSEL, BUT THAT TOWING CHARGES WOULD AMOUNT TO 17,000 CRUZEIROS. CHARGE WAS BASED ON 10,000 CRUZEIRO FEE FOR TAKING CORVETTE OUT OF PORT AND THE REMAINDER ON OPERATING EXPENSES IN TOWING " APOLLO XII" 60 MILES. MILLS OBJECTED TO HIGH COST OF FEE INITIALLY, BUT LATER AGREED TO PAY IT.

7. ARRANGEMENTS FOR REPAIR OF BOAT WERE MADE ON MAY 14. BOAT HAS BEEN TURNED OVER TO BRAZILIAN SHRIMP COMPANY, P. I. N. A. WHICH IS ACTING AS OWNER' S AGENT.

8. IN AN INFORMAL EXCHANGE TODAY BETWEEN EMBASSY OFFICERS AND COSTA (ASST SEC FONOFF) HE STATED THAT NAVY IS PREPARING FULL REPORT ON INCIDENT AND THAT BOAT HAD NOT BEEN RELEASED AS YET FOR DEPARTURE. HE ADDED THAT PRELIMINARY REPORT WHICH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IS NOT CONCLUSIVE INDICATED VESSEL HAD BEEN FISHING IN BRAZILIAN WATERS SINCE JANUARY 1973, AND THAT THERE WAS NO RADIO TRANSMISSION EQUIPMENT ON BOARD.
ROUNTREE

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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